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Message Text

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46
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 SAM-01 OES-05

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FEA-01 PRS-01 PA-02 NEA-10

/121 W
---------- 106294
R 120905Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7652
ERDA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS TOKYO 3775

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN EXXON/ERDA COAL LIQUEFACTION PROJECT

1. BRIEF ARTICLE IN TOKYO PAPER STATES THAT TOA NENRYO KOGYO K.K. (TOA FUEL INDUSTRY, CORP.) HAS DISCLOSED THAT IT PALNS TO PARTICIPATE IN A COAL LIQUEFACTION PROJECT JOINTLY EXECUTED BY EXXON AND ERDA. TOTAL COST OF PROJECT IS SAID TO BE $300 MILLION WITH ERDA COVERING HALF OF COST. WEST GERMANY SAID TO BE INVOLVED ALSO. CAPACITY IS TO BE 50,000 BARRELS PER DAY SYNTHETIC FUEL. COMPLETION SCHEDULED FOR 1985. PLANT TO BE LOCATED IN BAYTOWN, TEXAS.

2. TOA NENERYO CLAIMS THAT U.S. SIDE SOUGHT INVESTIMENT FROM BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC CORPORATIONS IN JAPAN, MENTIONING PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT CORP. AND ELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT CO. BY NAME.

3. ARTICLE SAYS THAT $20 MILLION OF TOTAL INVESTMENT WAS SOUGHT
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FROM JAPANESE COMPANIES. TOA NENERYO INTENDS TO NOTIFY U.S. SIDE

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OF ITS INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN PROJECT BY END OF JUNE (DEADLINE FOR REPLY) AFTER TRYING TO GET OTHER JAPANESE FIRMS TO JOIN IN.

4. ARTICLE WAS SHOWN TO DR. W. SCHMIDT-KUESTER, NOW VISITING JAPAN TO ATTEND JAIF MEETING, WITH THOUGHT THAT THIS MIGHT BE IEA DEMONSTRATION PLANT PROJECT. S-K DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF PROJECT, STATING THAT FRG HAD DECIDED TO INVEST IN GULF COAL LIQUEFACTION PROJECT, ALTHOUGH IT HAD CONSIDERED EXXON PROCESS AT ONE TIME.

5. IF DEPT. OR ERDA HAVE ANY INFO ON JAPANESE INVOLVEMENT IN EXXON PROJECT, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE HEARINGO OF IT. ALSO, EMBASSY WILLING TO TRY TO LEARN MORE DETAILS ABOUT TOA NENERYO ROLE IF DESIRED.
SHOESMITH

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Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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To: STATE ERDA
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